

Information Item

Educational Policy and Programs Committee

Update on the Commission's Student Information and Accountability System (AB 1570)

This agenda item outlines the progress by staff to implement Assembly Bill 1570 which authorizes the Commission to augment its existing student information database with a unique identifier for each student record. This additional data element will enable the Commission to monitor longitudinally the progress and success of students as they enroll and complete their postsecondary education studies within California. Staff will report on the following:

- ♦ The Commission has reached agreement with the three public segments in an MOU governing data exchange and data use.
- ♦ In February, Commission staff will discuss the protocols and procedures for the data exchange between the four partners to the agreement and also discuss potential reports and studies made possible by the data.

Presenter: Martin Miller.



Update on the Commission's Student Information and Accountability System (AB 1570)

Introduction This agenda item outlines the progress made to date by staff to implement Assembly Bill 1570 which authorizes the Commission to augment its existing student information database with a unique identifier for each student record. This additional data element will enable the Commission to monitor longitudinally the progress and success of students as they enroll and complete their postsecondary education studies within California.

Assembly Bill 1570 (Chapter 916, 1999), authored by former Assembly Speaker Villaraigosa and Assemblyman Romero, was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis on October 9, 1999. The bill authorized the California Postsecondary Education Commission to augment its existing student information database with a unique identifier for each individual student record. The Commission has made significant progress in making arrangements with California public colleges and universities to obtain the data called for in law.

The purpose of the postsecondary education student information system is to monitor longitudinally the movement of students into, between, and through the public segments of higher education in California. With unique identifiers available for students in postsecondary institutions, the Commission will be able to better understand and report on students choice of institution, time to degree, dropout and stop-out patterns, transfer patterns, and concurrent enrollment. The information reported from the enhanced system would provide information necessary for policy makers to determine how well public colleges and universities are responding to state policy priorities and accountability goals.

Progress to date Since enactment of Assembly Bill 1570, the Commission staff has been active in the preparations necessary to collect the unique student identifier associated with each student record. This has included complying with a number of official State requirements concerning development of additional technology, retaining the personnel and consultative resources necessary to implement the new system, and made significant progress towards receiving the new, unique student identifier from the State's public higher education institutions.

In March of 2001, Commission staff convened an advisory group composed of representatives from the three public segments, the California Department of Education, the California Independent Colleges and Uni-

versities, Bureau of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, and California Student Aid Commission. The group discussed the objectives of AB 1570 and each entities role in the Commission's student information system. The working group determined that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing the relationship between the Postsecondary Education Commission and the segments participating in the agreement was necessary before there was further discussion on data submission and data use.

The Commission has reached agreement with the three public segments and will likely have a signed MOU by the end of January. In February, Commission staff will discuss with the three public segments the protocols and procedures for the data exchange between the four partners to the agreement and also discuss potential reports and studies made possible by the data.
